

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, that number does not even approach the number, if we look at the houses that are lost, the businesses that are under water, and it is still rising.

□ 1915

HURRICANE FLOYD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, one aspect of this that is going to confront us in the weeks ahead is the environmental disaster that this represents. When we were in the helicopter flying down to Tarboro where the President spoke and where we met with community leaders and people who have been displaced by this disaster, we went to a shelter where people were talking about how difficult it was. They are, of course, happy to be alive; but it is tough in those shelters. The kids get restless. The situation is uncertain. People have no home to go back to in many cases.

But going down there, looking from the air, the unholy stew of hog waste overflows and municipal systems being overflowed and storage tanks, gasoline storage tanks being uprooted, spilling, it is an awful environmental disaster. The people cannot drink this water. People cannot, of course, have any drainage or any sewage systems.

So it is a disaster that is going to be with us for a long time to come. The cleanup is going to take a long time. It is going to be very expensive. We are going to need our colleagues here to help us with disaster assistance. As this agricultural aid goes through, this very definitely needs to be a part of it.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, this photograph here I think is one of the photographs taken in eastern North Carolina. The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is here with us, and she was with us yesterday as we went down to Tarboro. I went back today and visited Wilson, parts of Wilson, and into Rocky Mount again and Smithfield.

But in Tarboro yesterday, it was heartening to see people's courage, but it was also heart wrenching to see what they had gone through, the whole town of Smithfield, Tarboro with no water, no sewer, no telling when it will be back up because water has not yet gone down.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) will yield to me, I agree and thank my colleagues for coming to the floor, and I just thank my colleagues for what they are doing so often.

I also visited Wilson today and visited Halifax. I have a map of the 301 that at least a home of 5,000 feet could

get in. The railroad was having to be rerouted. The water for schools. I saw at least 50 homes destroyed. I am just coming back from Wayne County where the water has not crested yet.

They are wondering how much they are going to release from the Neuse on Wednesday. They are fearful that the water is going to crest tomorrow. If it released 6,000 cubic feet of water, that goes where? It goes to Wayne County. So we want our colleagues to understand this.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, on the news this morning in Goldsboro, I heard this morning on the news along that point, 14 feet flood stage. The Neuse was supposed to crest today without any release of water right at 30 feet, more than twice flood stage. Water is everywhere. I agree.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, people talk about 100-year flood. In some areas, this is a 500-year flood. There are areas flooded now that in no one's memory have ever been flooded before. It is unbelievable the extent of devastation, far beyond what could have reasonably been predicted.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to just share with my colleagues, the word came from Greenville today that it had to cut all the water off. There are about 65,000 people that pump there; they were going to lose their utilities. Again, they have not crested. They expect to crest tonight.

What it reaffirms is that we are so interdependent on each other. Someone always lives downstream from somewhere else. So those who are living downstream are beginning to see the manifestation of what it means to have the water come.

There are just thousands of people who are in shelters in Halifax. In fact, there are about 6,000 in Pitt County, about 5,000 in Edgecombe County. I visited today in Wilson, as the gentleman did. Some of the people in Wilson are actually taking people from Greene county as well as Pitt. We find neighbors helping neighbors.

We want to convey to our colleagues we need that same sense of compassion and generosity. By the way, this flood goes all the way to New Jersey.

HURRICANE FLOYD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, there are heart-rending tales. We spoke with many, many people in Tarboro who have gone through things no one should ever have to endure in losing their homes, losing their possessions, and, in some cases, losing the lives of family members.

But it is also at the same time inspiring to see the way people are working together and to see the spirit and the spunk. Also, I think we should pay tribute here, I think we all feel this, to the cooperative effort that governmental agencies are making.

Our governor, Jim Hunt, has been tireless in his work. Our Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety, Richard Moore, has been on the scene. State agencies, local law enforcement, the National Guard, and the Federal Government is holding up its end of the bargain.

I must say the work of the Small Business Administration and FEMA. James Lee Witt was with us there yesterday, and he is working with us at this moment on how we can craft a disaster assistance package.

So we are very grateful for what has already happened, but we are going to have to be in this for the long haul.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlewoman from North Carolina will yield just a moment on that point, not only are we getting tremendous help, but I think FEMA has done an outstanding job. I would echo that. James Lee Witt has been outstanding. All of our agencies at every level. But a lot of our individuals have come forth to do so much.

I was in Rocky Mount, a district that the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON) and I share. Thirty of the public service people in Rocky Mount were out helping others. They had no home to go home to. They were out helping.

Same thing was true in Tarboro yesterday. Two business people, Bob Barnhill who owns a construction company, and Steve Woodsworth, who has another business, they were there providing food and shelter and helping seniors, moving them out in Tarboro out of the Arbermal building when their homes had water in them. But they were there helping.

People of North Carolina have responded, but we still have a long way to go before we are through this. As the gentlewoman said, people are in shelters, are going to be there for several more days before they can even go to temporary quarters.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, let me just read a couple of statements that I have, because the pictures reflect that.

In the driving wind and rain last Thursday morning, Mr. Ben Mayo attempted to save his family. Concerned by the rapid rise of the river, he ushered his family of four out of bed and loaded them into a small boat. Reaching out to his neighbors, he also loaded eight of them into the same small boat. The boat capsized. Six of the persons from the boat were able to reach higher ground.

But Mr. Ben Mayo, his wife, his daughter, and granddaughter, Teshika Vines, were swept away by the raging waters.